

Master show-stopping stunts at these terrain parks

IF ZIPPING downhill on the bunny slopes seems too tame, try tricking on the terrain parks!

Lucky for you, each of West Virginia's ski resorts has a terrain park for skiers and snowboarders of any skill level.

So suit up, fasten your helmet and get ready to catch some air!

Timberline Four Seasons Resort 2 terrain parks in Davis

One of the Top 4 glade skiing areas in the East, Timberline's high elevation and varied terrain make it a mecca for skiers and snowboarders. They have two terrain parks to choose from, including a new 750-foot park for the 2016 season. Freestyle fanatics will be impressed with the new addition, which boasts big jumps and lot of room for flow.

If you're up for a lengthy journey after hitting the 30-, 40- and 50-foot jumps, ride the resort's 2-mile long Salamander Run, the longest trail in the Southeast.

Oglebay Resort 1 terrain park in Wheeling

Looking to get your toes



wet and catch some modest air? Oglebay is the perfect place to define your freestyle form. Small but mighty, Oglebay's terrain park offers rails and box features of varying sizes, perfect for an eager beginner. Plus, exciting, snow-made jumps for intermediate-to-advanced riders.

Snowshoe Mountain Resort 5 terrain parks in Snowshoe

If you have Olympic ambitions or maybe just a daredevil spirit, the new Evolution Park at Snowshoe Mountain

Resort is the spot for you this season. Highly anticipated for its length and flow, this world-class park lets freestylers hone their tricks, spins, posture, speed and smoothness.

Snowshoe also has Progression Session Park, which has small and medium features that are friendly for both novice and intermediate riders. Their Silver Creek area boasts three more terrain parks, including the Mountaineer, where you can take your turn on a rail and showcase your skills to onlookers.

Put your trickin' to the test during the Progression Session Jams: noncompetitive, jam-style sessions that link you up with coaches to help take your skills to the next level.

Winterplace Ski Resort 2 terrain parks in Ghent

Low risk and big thrills are the name of the game at Winterplace Ski Resort's two terrain parks, which specialize in beginner or intermediate features. The resort was named "Best place to learn" by Blue Ridge Outdoors, so if you're hoping to spice up your time on the slopes, try private terrain park lessons.

If you're already confident in your skills, the jumps and



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Show how awesome you are on a snowboard at a terrain park at one of the state's ski resorts.

rails create the perfect combination or hit the 6-foot T-box.

Canaan Valley Resort 1 terrain park in Davis

The terrain park at Canaan Valley Resort is right in the heart of the action. The park's box and rail inventory get

switched up throughout the season to stay fresh. Interchanging features include a C-box, flat box, 25-foot flat rail, 20-foot step-down jumps and more.

Canaan's Rail Jam Series throughout the season gives freestyle competitors a chance to flaunt their flow.

Keep an eye on the event calendar for upcoming dates!

If you're nervous about your first terrain park trick, you can get private freestyle lessons at all of the ski resorts.

Don't forget your helmet, a good attitude, and most importantly: Have fun!

Five off-the-beaten-path, kitschy mountain stops

Here in West Virginia — a state that certainly has its share of quirky festivals, stores and characters — we've got plenty of kitsch for fun-spirited irony connoisseurs.

Here are the kitschiest of the kitsch in the Mountain State. Pull out your road maps. You won't want to miss these spots!

The Unger Giants, Unger

Also known as the "Farnham Colossi," this collection of fiberglass statues belongs to George and Pam Farnham. The place overlooks the small Eastern Panhandle town of Unger. These behemoths are most

definitely kitsch at its finest.

The Farnhams have searched across the nation for additions to their statue garden — there's a 25-foot Midas Muffler Man, smiling from beneath his crown; a man-woman pair of swimming-suit-clad beach bums that look straight out of a 1960s Frankie and Annette surf movie; Santa Claus; a shopper and more.

Hillbilly Hot Dogs, Lesage

This West Virginia institution has come a long way from its humble beginnings in 1999, when owners Sonny and Sharie Knight started a hot dog stand in a 12-foot-by-16-foot

shack in the Ohio River town of Lesage. They've expanded into a couple of converted school buses, cluttered with decor such as goofy, misspelled signs and old country toys. They have been featured on national TV shows such as Guy Fieri's "Diners, Drive-ins and Dives."

World's Largest Teapot, Chester

"World's largest" attractions have been a staple for kitsch-seeking road trips for years now. In addition to having the Western Hemisphere's longest single-span (and non-kitschy) bridge, West Virginia also has the largest teapot in Chester, far

in the Northern Panhandle.

By the early 1990s, the teapot had fallen into disrepair, and the city of Chester opted to restore it. Today, it is a beloved landmark for the city.

Mystery Hole, Ansted

Along the narrow, winding Midland Trail road, as it descends from Ansted into the New River Gorge is a small, ramshackle building covered with oddities (like a car sticking out of its interior, or a giant gorilla overhead) and signs advertising itself as "The Mystery Hole." The vagueness is intriguing, promising mind-blowing "gravity tours." The

Mystery Hole promises potentially mystical, mind-blowing experiences, buttressed by personal testimonies from visitors.

Cool Springs Park, Rowlesburg

Tucked back into the windy mountain roads of Rowlesburg, in northern West Virginia, you'll find one of the most unique roadside tourist shops in the nation. The Cool Springs Park is an indoor/outdoor combination of petting zoo, curio shop and old-time railroad museum. The store embraces its kitschy, campy vibe.

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Snowshoe Mountain Resort, WV